CHAPTER XII

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

MANILA, THE CAPITAL AND METROPOLIS [1]

MANILA is the capital, metropolis, commercial center, and most important dty of the Philippine group. It has been aptly called "The Pearl of the Orient." In reality Manila is three cities in one—the original Walled City surrounded by the old moat, which has been converted into the municipal golf links, the Tondo quarter with its slums and teeming population, and the modern city with its beautiful residential districts, busy commercial life, fine parks and boulevards, and splendid government buildings. Manila, more than any other great city, presents a scene of vivid contrasts, the old and the new side by side—here East meets West.

Manila is situated on the shore of Manila Bay. It faces to the west and looks out on the Cavite Naval Station and the island fortress of Corregidor, with the Mariveles Mountains in the background. To the east are low, rolling hills, blue and hazy in the distance. The city proper lies on a flat plain which straddles the Pasig River. The suburbs crowd out into the foothills to provide homes for dty residents.

Three bridges, the Jones Bridge, the Santa Cruz Bridge, and the Ayala Bridge with its new addition, span the Pasig River and connect North and South Manila. The magnificent Jones Bridge is a monument to that sympathetic friend of the

Filipinos, the late Congressman William Atkinson Jones, the sponsor of the Organic Act for the Philippines which bears

[1] Section read by Hon. Juan Posadas, Mayor of the City of Manila. See Lawrence Benton, *Port of Manila Year Book for 1934.*